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Report Cites Dangers of Arms Race
By George Gedda
WASHINGTON

More than \$1 million a minute is being spent worldwide on the military, with nuclear stockpiles exceeding 50,000 weapons, according to a study by a coalition of arms control groups.

The study, "World Military and Social Expenditures, 1982," charges that nuclear and conventional arms races have wasted resources without enhancing international security.

International nuclear stockpiles have mushroomed to represent the equivalent of 3.5 tons of TNT for every person on earth, more than 1 million times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb, the study said.

"Under its heavy military burden, the global economy has suffered," writes the author of the study, Ruth Leger Sivard. "The diversion of resources from civilian needs is a silent killer, curbing productivity and development, and adding more millions to the hundreds of millions of people who lack the most basic necessities of life."

Ms. Sivard is director of a non-profit research organization named World Priorities. She was formerly chief of the economics division of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The report, using information supplied by the Pentagon, the CIA, United Nations organizations and several international publications, claims that:

World military costs have risen to \$600 billion a year - well over \$1 million a minute.

The world's nuclear weapon stockpile is equivalent to 16 billion tons of TNT. In World War II, 3 million tons of munitions were expended, and 40 million to 50 million people died.

Spending per soldier averages \$19,300 worldwide but only \$380 is spent per school age child for education.

For every 100,000 people, there are 556 soldiers and 85 physicians. An estimated 100 million people worldwide are engaged directly or indirectly in military activities.

In 32 countries, governments spend more for military purposes than for education and health care combined.

Nuclear missiles can go from Western Europe to Moscow in six minutes but the average rural housewife in Africa must walk several hours a day for the family's water supply.

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NATO and Warsaw Pact forces have a total of 100,000 tanks, enough to form a column stretching the approximate 1,100 miles between Paris and Budapest.

Although no nuclear holocaust has occurred, at least 10 million people have died in "local wars" since World War II, and more civilians than soldiers have been the victims.

The report says the United States and the Soviet Union, representing 11 percent of the world's population, have spearheaded and shaped the global military competition since 1945.

The two superpowers "lead in the development and refinement of new forms of warfare," it says. "They spend half the world's military budget, export 58 percent of the arms moving in international trade and control 96 percent of the world's stockpile of nuclear weapons."

The American groups sponsoring the study were the Arms Control Association, the Institute For World Order, the Peace Through Law Education Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Stanley Foundation and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Foreign groups participating were Project Ploughshares, Canada; The British Council of Churches and the United Nations Association of Sweden.